

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (canceled)

2 (currently amended): The method according to claim 4~~5~~, wherein the first control signal represents an application that is in focus.

3 (currently amended): The method according to claim 4~~5~~, wherein the portion of the first pattern layer includes text representing a function associated with the key in an active application in the first context.

4 (currently amended): The method according to claim 4~~5~~, wherein the portion of the first pattern layer includes an icon representing a function associated with the key in an active application in the first context.

5 (currently amended): ~~The A method according to claim 1 for labeling a key on a hardware input device, wherein a plurality of pattern layers are associated with a key, one of first and second pattern layers being disposed on top of the other of the first and second pattern layers, said method comprising the steps of:~~

~~receiving a first control signal from a computer in a first context;~~

~~displaying at least a portion of the first pattern layer responsive to the first control signal in the first context;~~

~~receiving a second control signal from the computer in a second context; and~~

~~displaying at least a portion of the second pattern layer responsive to the second control signal in the second context,~~

wherein the step of displaying at least the portion of the first pattern layer includes illuminating at least the portion of the first pattern layer, and wherein the step of displaying at least the portion of the second pattern layer includes illuminating at least the portion of the second pattern layer.

6 (previously presented): The method according to claim 5, further comprising de-illuminating at least the portion of the first pattern layer responsive to the second control signal in the second context.

7 (currently amended): The method according to claim 4~~5~~, wherein the first and second pattern layers are in a region adjacent to the key.

8 (currently amended): The method according to claim 4~~5~~, wherein the first and second pattern layers are part of the key.

9 (currently amended): The method according to claim 4~~5~~, further comprising the step of discontinuing the display of the portion of the first pattern layer responsive to the second control signal in the second context.

10 (currently amended): The method according to claim 4~~5~~, wherein the first pattern layer includes first and second portions, said displaying the portion of the first pattern layer including displaying the first portion of the pattern layer.

11 (original): The method according to claim 10, further including the steps of:
receiving a third control signal from the computer in a third context; and
displaying the second portion of the first pattern layer responsive to the third control signal in the third context.

12 (original): The method according to claim 11, further including responsive to the third control signal, discontinuing the display of any portions of the first and second pattern layers displayed.

13 (original): The method according to claim 10, wherein the first and second portions are mutually exclusive.

14 (currently amended): The method according to claim 4~~5~~, wherein the first and second pattern layers are electroluminescent.

15 (currently amended): A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method of labeling a key on a hardware input device, wherein a plurality of pattern layers are associated with a key, one of first and second pattern layers being disposed on top of the other of the first and second pattern layers, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a first control signal from a computer in a first context;

displaying at least a portion of the first pattern layer responsive to the first control signal in the first context;

receiving a second control signal from the computer in a second context; and

displaying at least a portion of the second pattern layer responsive to the second control signal in the second context.

wherein the step of displaying at least the portion of the first pattern layer includes illuminating at least the portion of the first pattern layer, and wherein the step of displaying at least the portion of the second pattern layer includes illuminating at least the portion of the second pattern layer.

16-19 (canceled)

20 (currently amended): The input device according to claim 4925, wherein a first label displayed represents a character in a first language in a first context, and a second label displayed represents a second language in a second context.

21-24 (canceled)

25 (currently amended): A hardware ~~The input device according to claim 23~~ for providing inputs to a computer comprising:

a plurality of input keys, at least one key being associated with a plurality of labels, each label representing a context associated with the key, wherein a label displayed is configured to change in response to a control signal representing a current context generated by the computer;

a plurality of stacked layers configured to display the label representing the current context of the key responsive to the control signal, wherein the stacked layers are electroluminescent pattern layers located at the bottom of the key in a substrate of the key.

26 (original): The input device according to claim 25, wherein the key further includes a transparent top portion and optical components disposed between the transparent top portion and the stacked electroluminescent pattern layers, the optical components projecting a display of the label representing the context of the key from the electroluminescent pattern layers through the transparent top portion.

27-48 (canceled)

49 (new): The computer readable medium according to claim 15, wherein the method further comprises the step of de-illuminating at least the portion of the first pattern layer responsive to the second control signal in the second context.

50 (new): The computer readable medium according to claim 15, wherein the first and second pattern layers are in a region adjacent to the key.

51 (new): The computer readable medium according to claim 15, wherein the first and second pattern layers are part of the key.

52 (new): The computer readable medium according to claim 15, wherein the method further comprises the step of discontinuing the display of the portion of the first pattern layer responsive to the second control signal in the second context.

53 (new): The computer readable medium according to claim 15, wherein the first pattern layer includes first and second portions, said displaying the portion of the first pattern layer including displaying the first portion of the pattern layer.

54 (new): The computer readable medium according to claim 53, wherein the method further includes the steps of:

receiving a third control signal from the computer in a third context; and

displaying the second portion of the first pattern layer responsive to the third control signal in the third context.

55 (new): The computer readable medium according to claim 54, wherein the method further includes responsive to the third control signal, discontinuing the display of any portions of the first and second pattern layers displayed.

56 (new): The computer readable medium according to claim 53, wherein the first and second portions are mutually exclusive.

57 (new): The computer readable medium according to claim 15, wherein the first and second pattern layers are electroluminescent.

58 (new): The computer readable medium according to claim 15, wherein the first control signal represents an application that is in focus.

59 (new): The computer readable medium according to claim 15, wherein the portion of the first pattern layer includes text representing a function associated with the key in an active application in the first context.

60 (new): The computer readable medium according to claim 15, wherein the portion of the first pattern layer includes an icon representing a function associated with the key in an active application in the first context.